SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MOU details the modalities of collaboration between CSIR and industry for quality assurance of products manufactured by industry, financial arrangements, responsibilities of collaborating parties and other terms and conditions governing the collaboration.

(c) Under the MOU, CSIR would collaborate with industries for total quality assurance of products in the areas of (i) Test and Measuring instruments and (ii) electrical appliances. The collaborative work would include testing and evaluation of existing products, identification of causes for non-conformance to specifications, modification in design, choice of material, components and sub-systems, optimisation of process control parameters and production techniques etc.

Provision for small scale sector in the Eighth Five Year Plan

710. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has decided to include major provisions in its 8th Five Year Plan for effecting a rapid growth in the small scale sector;

(b) if so, what are the main points in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the small scale sector will be provided assistance during the 8th Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) Eighth Five Year Plan is yet to be formulated.

Poverty ratio during seventh Five Year Plan

711. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the decline of poverty ratio during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, to what extent the poverty ratio has declined during the said plan period; and

(c) what was the target set and to what extent it has been less than the target set?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) The assessment of decline in the poverty ratio over the Seventh Plan and its comparison with the target will be possible only when the survey results on household consumption expenditure will become available for a few years including the terminal year (1989-90) of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Study on living organisms

712. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian researchers are studying how living organisms cope with adverse environment;

(b) if so, to what extent the study has been completed; and

(c) what is the outcome of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) Indian researchers are continuing research in the broad area